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FLM 10-76
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MEAT OUTPUT IN SELECTED WORLD MARKETS
EXPECTED TO RISE BY 3 PERCENT IN 1976

Total production of meat in the key commercial markets of the United States, Canada, the European Community (EC), and Japan is expected to increase from year-earlier levels by about 3 percent in 1976. Of these major markets, a significant decline in meat production is forecast only for the EC. Two factors that might cause this trend to be reversed during the year would include a change in EC dairy policy that could cause increased slaughter of cows and/or continuation of drought conditions in France, the United Kingdom, and Germany, which could also result in increased slaughter above current expectations. EC beef stock levels, estimated to be about 400,000 tons (carcass weight equivalent basis), dampen any prospect for a surge in imports this year. Stocks are likely to be built up further during the year if the Italian market does not improve.

In Japan, meat production is expected to stabilize at about 2 million tons. Larger pork and poultry supplies are expected to almost offset forecast declines in beef and veal production. It is estimated that about 160,000 tons (carcass weight equivalent) of imported beef will be needed in 1976--100,000 tons more than imported in 1975. Pork imports are expected to remain at 140,000 tons in 1976 but mutton imports may decline slightly. On balance, imports are expected to be about 85,000 tons greater than in 1975.

Meat production in the United States is expected to increase by about 6 percent in 1976--gains of 4 percent for beef and veal production, 5 percent for pork, and over 10 percent for poultry. A program of voluntary restraints with supplying countries eligible to export certain meats (primarily fresh, chilled, or frozen beef and veal) is being negotiated by the Department of State. Taking into account this program, beef and veal imports into the United States in 1976 would be expected to be about 845,000 tons--5 percent or 40,000 tons above 1975 imports.

Meat production in Canada is expected to increase only slightly this year with most of the increase occurring in beef, veal, and poultry production, as pork production is expected to decline by 4 percent. Most of the increase in Canada's beef and veal production is expected to come from the slaughter of 200,000-250,000 more cull dairy cows than was previously expected. The larger slaughter is expected to result from a change in

Canada's dairy policy whereby producers are heavily taxed for milk marketings above quota levels. There is considerable controversy in Canada over the dairy tax and speculation that changes may occur. This would alter the FAS current forecast for Canadian beef and veal production. Australia and New Zealand have implemented minimum export prices for sales of beef to Canada to assure the spread between sales of manufacturing beef to Canada is no greater than 6 cents per pound below prices quoted for imported manufacturing beef on the U.S. market the day the sale is made. Offer prices in recent months have differed by as much as 25 cents per pound.

In the major exporting countries--Australia, New Zealand, Central America, Argentina, and Uruguay--beef and veal production is expected to be up by about 11 percent--670,000 tons in 1976. The four key commercial markets are forecast to take nearly 200,000 tons of the increase. About 165,000 tons are expected to be consumed domestically, leaving 300,000 tons for export to nontraditional markets. The most important of these might be the USSR in 1976.

There is considerable speculation that the USSR may buy 400,000-600,000 tons of meat in 1976, most of which is expected to be beef. While this quantity seems large, it is not nearly so in comparison with the Soviet Union's imports in the past 2 years. Official Soviet trade data show imports of meat and meat products in 1974 and 1975 were 515,000 tons (product weight basis) in both years.

Country Situations
Major Importers

United States

Total U.S. meat production for 1976 is estimated to be about 22.8 million tons, an increase of 6 percent over the 1975 level of 21.5 million tons. Of total meat production for 1976, beef and veal production is estimated to reach 11.8 million tons, a 4.4 percent increase over the year-earlier level of 11.3 million tons. Pork production is forecast to increase 5 percent to 5.5 million tons and poultry output 10 percent to 5.3 million tons in 1976.

Total cattle slaughter through May was 10 percent higher than the 16 million head slaughtered a year earlier, even though declines were registered for the past two months. Cows slaughtered under Federal Inspection declined for the fifth straight month, but maintained a 16 percent advantage over last year's total of 3.4 million head.

Summer weather and its effect on the grain crop and pastures will have a significant bearing on the cattle market for the balance of 1976. Fed-beef production is expected to run 20 to 25 percent over year-earlier levels through the rest of 1976. However, declining nonfed cattle slaughter during the last half of this year is expected to be more than offsetting, reducing total cattle slaughter 5 percent or more from that of the second half of 1975. A higher proportion of fed cattle in the mix would, however, substantially increase average slaughter weights and hold total beef production near last year's July-December level. Nevertheless, cattle slaughter for the

entire year should total near 1975's 41 million head. With increased weights, total beef output would then be boosted 3-5 percent over last year's record.

U.S. hog numbers on March 1, 1976, were 40.9 million head. Projected hog numbers on December 1, 1976, could be as much as 53 million head or 7 percent greater than year-earlier levels of 49.6 million head. Seasonal declines in hog slaughter around midyear will likely be smaller than usual this year, followed by substantial increases in slaughter by early fall. The 13-15 percent rise in second-half pork output currently expected would raise production for the year about 5-6 percent over 1975's 10-year low to 5.5 million tons. Hog prices have been remarkably stable for the last 7 months, fluctuating mostly between $47 and $50 per 100 pounds.

For 1976, total U.S. poultry production is estimated to reach 5.3 million tons, a 10 percent increase over the year-earlier level of 4.8 million tons. U.S. broiler production is expected to increase 10 percent to reach 4 million tons and turkey production is forecast to increase 10-11 percent.

In the first 5 months of 1976 total U.S. imports of red meat were about 357,500 tons, product weight--15 percent greater than imports in the same period of 1975. The greatest absolute increase was noted for imports of canned corned beef and other prepared or preserved beef imports supplied primarily by Argentina and Brazil. During the first 5 months, beef and veal imports from these two suppliers increased by 37.5 million pounds over imports in the same period of 1975. Imports of prepared beef and veal were about 4 million pounds greater than in January-May 1975. This category, while it is fresh, chilled, or frozen, is not subject to the voluntary restraint program being negotiated by the Department of State with principal supplying countries this year. Of the total imported so far this year, 2.7 million pounds were supplied by Panama and 1 million by New Zealand.

Estimates of beef and veal exports this year are being revised upward from the April 1 forecast by 5,000 tons to 45,000 tons (carcass weight equivalent). The revision is a result of larger expected shipments to Canada. Forecasts for pork and poultry exports are also being revised upward from those made in the April 1 estimate. In the case of pork, this would reduce net imports to the lowest levels in recent history. Poultry exports would likewise be near record highs.

European Community

The EC beef situation in 1976 continues as forecast earlier. Beef and veal production is forecast down 5 percent to about 6.2 million tons. Pork production is forecast up about 1 percent to 7.6 million tons, and poultry up 4 percent to 3.3 million tons. Mutton and lamb production estimates remain unchanged at 500,000 tons.

Currently France, the U.K., and Germany are facing drought conditions. In France, first-quarter cattle slaughter was down only slightly from year-ago levels and beef production was up slightly because of heavier slaughter weights. In the U.K., steer and heifer slaughter in the first 18 weeks of

1976 was down only 2 percent and in the first week of May was 13 percent above a year-ago record levels. Calf slaughter and bull slaughter has remained low in the U.K.--possibly a result of the expected buildup of the U.K. dairy industry in anticipation of higher EC milk price supports. Steer and heifer slaughter has been higher than expected because of dry weather and sluggish consumer demand for beef. In Ireland, cattle slaughter was down 40 percent in the first quarter.

Beef intervention stocks remain at about 250,000 tons, product weight, or nearly 300,000 tons, carcass weight equivalent. A new private storage program for beef started on May 24, 1976. This program will be for up to 80,000 tons of beef, which could account for over 100,000 tons (carcass weight) because up to 60,000 tons can be stored in the boneless form. The storage period for 60,000 tons will be 5 to 6 months; the other 20,000 tons from 4 to 5 months. The storage period can be reduced to 2 months if the beef is exported. The EC has also allowed up to 18,000 metric tons of cow beef to be purchased by intervention authorities.

Beef imports into the EC remain tightly controlled. The EC is not expected to import more than 250,000 tons (carcass weight basis) of beef and veal this year, despite reduced production levels, because of large stocks and disturbances in the Italian market. About 300,000 tons of beef and veal and over 2 million head of cattle each year have been imported by Italy. Since the 1974 EC beef embargo, France and Germany have been the main suppliers. In 1975 France exported over 2.2 million head of cattle and 63,000 tons of beef, and Germany exported 500,000 head of cattle to Italy.

Starting in April, cattle or beef that would normally have been exported to Italy from Germany and France were being offered for intervention because of fluctuations in the exchange rate of the lira. Intervention sales increased further in May because of Italy's import deposit requirements and late payments by Italian importers. If the Italian market does not improve, it is likely that EC cattle prices will fall as intervention pressure becomes heavier and possible shortages in storage space develop.

In summation, EC beef production and trade prospects will depend on two factors this year. The most significant of these is probably the future of the Italian market. If the new Italian Government imposes tight economic controls and stricter measures to control imports are taken, the EC beef market could have serious surpluses. Secondly, if programs are enacted to cut dairy surpluses by a reduction in cow numbers and/or if drought conditions persist, beef production could be greater this year than currently forecast. This could further aggravate the meat surplus problem at the end of the year.

Japan

Japan's impact on world trade in meat arises from the sizable quantities of red meat it imports and the effect on the world market of its various import restrictions--quotas for beef, variable levies for pork, and duties for poultry. One example is the effect of the quotas on beef imports as they fell, on a product-weight basis, from 127,000 tons in 1973 to 53,000

tons in 1974 and 44,000 tons in 1975. Imports are now forecast to increase to 100,000 tons (product weight) in 1976. A sizable portion of the imports in 1976 will enter as chilled beef. Thus, the U.S. share of the imports should be double the 7 percent held in 1975.

With beef prices remaining high, imports of cattle for slaughter--which started late in 1975--have been continuing. If this trade should expand, it might have some moderating effect on beef imports. However, the United States is obtaining a share of this trade also. January-April exports from the United States indicate 447 head (four planeloads) of slaughter cattle were exported to Japan.

The heavy slaughter of dairy calves and dairy culls in 1974 and 1975 has resulted in a lesser number of dairy steers and culls for slaughter in Japan in 1976. The profitability of raising dairy feeders has caused dairy calves again to be retained, but not at the high 1973 rate. (Monthly calf slaughter in Japan has fluctuated between 2,000 and 27,000, but in recent months is averaging about 6,500.) While the number of beef cattle being slaughtered has risen as the number of dairy steers and culls slaughtered has declined, total slaughter and meat production are well below the 1975 levels. Beef production in 1976 is forecast nearly 20 percent below the 339,000 tons produced in 1975.

After a 5 percent decline in pork production in 1975 compared with 1974, a partial recovery was forecast for 1976. While pork production is still expected to start to recover in 1976, the increase will be less than earlier forecast and it is now estimated to rise 2 percent to 930,000 tons. This, plus strong demand for processed meats made from pork, is expected to result in pork imports approximating the 1975 level of 125,000 tons (product weight). With stronger competition from pork for processing meats, mutton imports may decline slightly from the high 1975 level of 130,000 tons (product weight). Competition from poultry meat is expected to keep pork consumption from increasing at a faster rate.

Broiler production is forecast to increase approximately 5 percent to 640,000 tons in 1976, but production of other poultry meats will remain stable. Because of the greater demand for poultry, imports of over 25,000 metric tons are expected, approximately 20 percent above 1975's imports.

Canada

Beef and veal production in Canada is forecast at 1.1 million metric tons--up 3 percent from the 1975 level. Inspected cattle slaughter, January 1 through May 15, 1976, was up about 8 percent from that of a year earlier. While the number of beef cattle slaughtered is forecast to trend lower in the last half of the year, an increase in fed cattle slaughter for which the average slaughter weight is heavier, and an estimated 200,000 to 250,000 dairy cows, which may be culled from the dairy herd as a result of a change in dairy policy in mid-April, will hold beef production near the 3 percent increase.

Canada's imports of beef in 1976 are expected to total about 100,000 tons (carcass weight equivalent), compared with about 89,000 tons in 1975. Imports of frozen boneless beef, mostly from Australia and New Zealand, are forecast at about 80,000 tons, carcass weight equivalent (some 58,000 tons, product weight), compared with 70,000 tons in 1975. Imports of chilled beef, mostly from the United States, are forecast at about 9,000 tons, product weight, in 1976 compared with 8,500 tons in 1975.

Canada's exports of beef and veal in 1976 are projected at about 44,000 metric tons, product weight.

The new dairy policy is directed at controlling milk production to prevent unmanageable and costly surpluses. In an effort to reduce milk production 15 percent in 1976/77, a special levy of C$8.60 per 100 pounds, plus the loss of $2.66 federal subsidy and added transportation costs, will result in a negative value of $0.19 per 100 pounds to producers for over-quota milk deliveries.

Slaughter of 197,666 canner and cutter cows (D3's and D4's) accounted for about 14 percent of total cattle slaughter through May 15. It is anticipated that the slaughter of D3 and D4 cows could total 620,000 head in 1976, up 24 percent from 1975.

Canada's pork production currently is forecast at 0.475 million metric tons in 1976--down 4 percent from that of 1975. Recovery in production, following sharp declines in the past 2 years, continues to hinge largely upon a return to hog raising in Western Canada, where grain farmers are reluctant to feed grain, which they can sell at a good profit, to hogs.

Canada's imports of pork are forecast at about 65,000 tons (carcass weight equivalent) in 1976, compared with 45,000 tons in 1975. Imports will be large in 1976, partly because of lower production, but also because exports, which are tied largely to contracts with Japanese trading companies, will be larger. Pork exports are forecast at 45,000 tons (carcass weight) in 1976, compared with 41,000 tons in 1975.

USSR

Livestock numbers are expected to increase slowly, as grain supplies permit, for the remainder of 1976. Production is expected to continue to drop as the sharply lower pork and poultry numbers begin to recover. To date, the Soviets have purchased small quantities of meat and meat products from New Zealand and are exploring and negotiating the purchase of additional meat supplies on the world market.

As of June 1, 1976, cattle numbers on State and collective farms, at 87.8 million head, were up 1 percent over those of last year. However, the rate of increase in cattle numbers has been slipping since January 1, 1976. For the remainder of 1976, the cattle inventory is expected to increase only slightly.

Hog numbers on State and collective farms as of June 1 at 45.6 million head were down 17 percent from those of last year. After the distressed

slaughter of 1975, the Soviets are attempting to rebuild their hog inventory, as evidenced by the 9 percent increase in numbers since January 1.

Poultry numbers on State and collective farms as of June 1 at 504.0 million head were down 12 percent from the 1975 level. Since January 1 of this year, the poultry inventory has increased 37 percent. It is estimated that poultry numbers will probably recover faster than hog numbers.

In 1975, total meat production in the Soviet Union increased 4 percent over the 1974 level, reaching a record 15.2 million tons. The increase in meat production in 1975 can partly be attributed to the tight grain supply situation and the distressed slaughter of pigs and poultry in the latter part of the year. Production prospects for 1976 indicate that the Soviet Government will not reach the 1975 production level. As a result of the decrease in the production of pork, poultry, and products from these meats and assuming the Soviets do not wish a decline in their recently attained consumption levels, they will have to import in the current year to reach previous consumption levels. It is estimated that they will purchase 500,000 to 600,000 tons of meat and meat products in 1976. In both 1974 and 1975 the Soviets imported 515,000 tons of meat and meat products (product weight basis). The largest share of these imports was supplied by Eastern Europe.

To date, the Soviets have already purchased 25,000 tons of mutton and 10,000 tons of beef for immediate delivery from New Zealand. Additionally, they have recently signed a 10-year trade agreement with Hungary, which provides for the yearly exportation of 18,500 tons of beef to the Soviet Union. The Australian Meat Board has already shown an interest in the export of beef to the USSR; however, at this point the Soviets have declined to accept any Australian offers. An alternate supplier of beef could possibly be the European Community. At present, the EC has about 300,000 tons of beef (carcass weight equivalent) in intervention stocks. The Soviets are also exploring the possibility of importing poultry additional to that they receive from their traditional suppliers in Eastern Europe. Both Denmark and the Netherlands have already made sales to the Soviets. The Danes have sold 1,000 tons of broilers and 100 tons of hens to the USSR, and the Dutch have sold 1 million broilers. A U.S. firm reportedly has negotiated a contract to sell 2,000 tons of broilers to the Soviets.

Major Exporters
P.L. 88-482 Suppliers

Australia

Beef and veal production in Australia is forecast at 1.8 million metric tons in 1976, up 143,000 tons or about 9 percent, from that of 1975. Cattle slaughter for the year is expected to average about 15 percent above the 1975 level, but average carcass weights are expected to be down. Cattle slaughter was up 22 percent and calf slaughter up 36 percent during the first quarter of 1976; however, beef and veal production was up only 16 percent, reflecting lower slaughter weights. The lower slaughter weights are attributed to floods in areas of the north and drought in certain southern regions.

Even if the present drought continues, it is unlikely that cattle slaughter and meat production would go much higher than currently projected. The meat works are taking about all the cattle they can handle with one shift, and some cattle--especially dairy culls from the drought areas--are at times being killed and disposed of as unmarketable. Some meat works are having problems keeping up in the boning rooms as they are handling more carcasses but without a corresponding increase in beef output. Exporters are looking for bone-in markets to help alleviate the problem. About the only way beef and veal output could exceed the current estimate would be for the U.S. market to open up for more beef or for the Soviets to make substantial purchases of bone-in beef. However, Soviet purchase requirements in 1975 stipulated large cattle. With the lighter weight cattle this year, this could cause even more problems if included in any possible sales contract this year.

According to the preliminary census report, cattle numbers as of March 31, 1976, are estimated at 33.5 million head, compared with 32.8 million head a year earlier. This estimate supports the projection for a continued high level of cattle slaughter for the balance of 1976 and a forecast of slightly higher slaughter in 1977. However, total beef and veal production in 1977 will be heavily dependent upon rainfall and pasture conditions later this year and in early 1977.

Domestic consumption is forecast to rise to 940,000 tons in 1976, slightly over one-half of predicted production. In 1975, consumption accounted for about 45 percent of beef and veal production.

Although export prices for beef are nearly 60 percent above those of a year earlier and domestic prices have held fairly steady, overall live cattle prices have slumped sharply from those of earlier this year. Prices for yearlings declined by A$25 per head, bullocks $20, and fat cows $15 in late April and early May from levels of a few weeks earlier. Because of the oversupply of off-condition animals relative to slaughter capacity and the available market outlets for beef, prices for most categories of cattle are likely to continue to be depressed for some time.

Australian exports of beef and veal in 1976 are forecast at 560,000 tons product weight (855,000 tons, carcass weight equivalent basis), about 9 percent larger than 1975 exports.

The Japanese market continues to look favorable, but exports of beef and veal to that market forecast at 75,000 tons (product weight) are slightly below earlier forecasts, partly because of difficulties in obtaining heavier fed cattle for slaughter to meet the Japanese demand for chilled beef. Exports to Canada, the Middle East, Malaysia-Singapore, and other destinations are a little more promising. The Soviets are playing a waiting game, possibly to obtain more favorable prices. Consequently, the prospective export level to them continues unknown.

The Australian diversification scheme on exports to the United States remains unchanged from the ratio set in November 1975. Exporters earn entitlement to ship 3 tons of beef to the United States for every 2 tons exported to other eligible destinations. However, since exports to the United States have been running ahead of schedule, the Meat Board has made some adjustments in the permissible level of quarterly exports to the

United States. Permissible levels of exports for the last 3 quarters of the December 1, 1975-November 30, 1976, shipping year, plus actual exports for the first quarter, now total 250,000 tons--some 37,000 tons below Australia's 1976 voluntary-restraint level. The Board has set aside 15,000 metric tons of the 37,000 tons remaining, which may be shipped in November for entry in December or early January, depending upon the restraint situation.

New Zealand

Beef and veal production in New Zealand in 1976 is forecast at 530,000 metric tons, 4.5 percent above 1975's production and sizably above earlier projections. Cattle slaughter has been running more than 25 percent above the low production level of the comparable period of 1975. At that time, producers were holding cattle back, awaiting higher guaranteed prices that were to be effective October 1, 1975, but the movement to slaughter started earlier as the Government started paying premiums to encourage producers to market cattle in the June-September period of 1975. Thus, the comparatively higher level of slaughter in the last half of 1975 is not likely to continue in the remaining months of this year. However, it is possible that drought and labor difficulties, which have occurred in some areas, could result in a greater reduction in the anticipated cattle slaughter and beef production than now anticipated.

If per capita consumption is held near the 1975 level in 1976, approximately 190,000 tons of beef and veal will be consumed. Therefore, current estimates place New Zealand's beef supplies (production plus carryover) available for export at approximately 270,000 tons, product weight, in 1976. Exports to principal markets, including 117,800 tons to the United States under the voluntary-restraint agreement, are forecast at 170,000 tons. New Zealand will have to export about 65,000 tons to minor and new markets in 1976 to prevent an increase in carryover stocks, which were 35,000 tons in December 1975.

In recent weeks freezer stocks have been approximately 25,000 tons above last year's carryover level. (The freezer space situation for beef has been somewhat improved by reduced stocks of sheep meat.) In the absence of a restraint program, a substantial proportion of these stocks and some of that expected to be shipped to minor markets in 1976 would be exported to the United States. With restraints, either the carryover will be larger than that of a year earlier or exports to minor or new markets, as indicated above, will absorb about 65,000 tons--some 5 percent more than was exported to minor markets last year.

Central America and the Caribbean

Cattle numbers in the Central American and Caribbean countries that export beef to the United States increased 3 percent in 1975 to reach approximately 13.6 million head on January 1, 1976. Cattle slaughter is expected to exceed 2 million head in 1976, up over 7 percent from that of 1975. By year's end numbers are expected to be up an additional 2 percent to 13.9 million head.

Beef production from the area in 1976 is projected to reach 360,000 tons, up slightly from earlier projections and 7 percent above 1975 levels. Exports are currently forecast at 139,000 tons (carcass weight equivalent basis), 4,000 tons above estimates made on April 1.

Exports to the United States from Central America and the Caribbean were about 90,000 tons in 1975. Currently, the amount available for sale to the United States is estimated at about 100,000 tons.

In the first 5 months of 1976, the United States imported 50,000 tons of meat from Central America, subject to this year's restraint program. Cattle slaughter and exports to the United States are expected to decline seasonally during the summer months, then return to normal levels in August.

Mexico

In the first quarter of 1976 Mexico's beef and veal exports to the United States totaled 11.3 million pounds, up 7.2 million pounds from first-quarter shipments in 1975. Of the total Maquila beef shipments (U.S. cattle exported to Mexico, slaughtered, and the beef thereof re-exported to the United States) totaled 4.7 million pounds compared with 3.4 million pounds in 1975.

Slaughter of U.S. Maquila cattle dropped sharply in the third week of April because of tight supplies and increased prices for U.S. slaughter cows.

A slight drop in U.S. boning cattle prices or an upward movement in the U.S. price of boneless beef will renew demand for U.S. Maquila cattle. Trade contacts and patterns have been established--and the U.S. Maquila cattle trade can respond on shorter notice and with larger numbers to the Mexican market situation than in the past.

Dry range conditions prevail in the northwest states of Mexico; however, sizable herd reductions and distress sales have not as yet materialized. If there is no relief, there will be some forced sales, adding to the export supply. The meat trade reports some increased movement of slaughter cattle out of this area, but no mass sell-offs, and Mexican cattle prices continue firm.

Other Exporters

Argentina

Argentine cattle slaughter is expected to reach 13.5 million head in 1976, up 13 percent compared with the 1975 level and, with heavier carcass weights, production is expected to reach 2.8 million tons, up 16 percent.

Perhaps the most important development in Argentine agriculture is the new Government's announced policy of reducing the powers of the National Meat Board and Grain Board, reducing export taxes on agricultural exports, and granting producers prices in accordance with world market price levels. As a result of these changes, Argentina expects to export 550,000 tons of beef and veal (carcass weight equivalent basis) in 1976, compared with 400,000 tons projected earlier, and more than double 1975's exports of

265,000 tons. Domestic consumption is expected to remain near its current high level.

Uruguay

Increased slaughter and higher average slaughter weights should cause Uruguay's 1976 beef production to reach 390,000 tons, up 11 percent from 1975. With heavily stocked pastures and low live cattle prices (7 cents per lb) causing farmers to return to sheep raising, cattle slaughter is expected to reach 1.9 million head, up nearly 10 percent from the 1975 level. Cattle numbers are predicted to decline 7 percent to 10.6 million head during the year.

The increased beef production is projected to move into international trade as exports this year are forecast at 185,000 tons (carcass weight equivalent), compared with 114,000 tons in 1975. Beef exports were 34,000 tons (product weight) in the first quarter of 1976, compared with 11,229 in that quarter of 1975. About 11,300 tons of beef have been sold to the EC, 8,500 tons to Egypt, and 3,700 tons to Greece. The Government indicates that 120,000 tons of meat--mainly beef--has been sold for shipment in January-June 1976. A large sale to Brazil (up to 50,000 tons, according to Uruguayan press reports but 26,000 tons according to Brazilian press accounts) has been rumored, but this has been denied by both Governments. There are also reports that Paraguayan processors are interested in importing beef from Uruguay or Argentina. Most or all of the beef sold to these two countries would be processed for re-export.

With estimated production of 390,000 tons and if the 185,000 tons of exports are reached, domestic consumption will need to decline from the very high rate of 85.5 kilos per capita seen in 1975. Domestic sales have remained high, despite a recent 18 percent retail price increase, but the Government has firmly denied that any beef consumption bans will be applied this year.

TABLE 1.--BEEF AND VEAL: WORLD IMPORTS BY SELECTED COUNTRIES AND TOTAL FOR ALL COUNTRIES, 1972 TO DATE--CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT
(In thousands of metric tons)

Country	1972	1973	1974	Estimate 1975	Forecast 1976 1/
United States	905	917	747	803	845
EC-9 2/	952	985	433	200	250
Canada	99	104	84	89	100
Japan	87	194	84	67	160
Spain	84	81	14	24	30
Greece	52	75	34	52	50
Switzerland	43	41	20	10	20
Germany, East	42	46	36	35	40
USSR	32	16	289	300	400
Chile	38	21	0	40	0
Portugal	32	20	35	45	60
Other countries	240	306	262	650	845
Total 1/	2,606	2,806	2,038	2,275	2,800

1/ FAS estimates. 2/ Excludes intratrade.

TABLE 2.--BEEF AND VEAL: WORLD EXPORTS BY SELECTED COUNTRIES AND TOTAL FOR ALL COUNTRIES, 1972 TO DATE--CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT
(In thousands of metric tons)

Country	1972	1973	1974	Estimate 1975	Forecast 1976 1/
P.L. 88-482:2/					
Australia	746	920	505	746	855
New Zealand 3/	289	316	267	333	340
Canada	42	41	33	25	50
Mexico	58	39	19	18	35
Central America 4/	139	132	115	123	140
Subtotal	1,274	1,448	939	1,245	1,420
EC-9 5/	85	82	207	150	200
Argentina	674	500	289	265	550
Uruguay	146	109	120	115	185
Other countries	692	703	530	525	500
Subtotal	1,597	1,394	1,146	1,055	1,435
Grand total	2,871	2,842	2,085	2,300	2,855

1/ FAS forecast. 2/ Excludes Ireland. 3/ Year ending September. 4/ Includes Dominican Republic and Haiti. 5/ Excludes intra-trade.

TABLE 3.--BEEF AND VEAL: CONSUMPTION, PRODUCTION, AND IMPORTS FOR UNITED STATES, EC-9, AND JAPAN, 1972 TO DATE--CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT

Country and year	Per capita consumption		Domestic production		Imports 1/				Wholesale prices 2/	
	Quantity	Index 1971 - 100	Quantity	Index 1971 - 100	Quantity	Index 1971 - 100	As percent of production	Share of world imports	Cents per kilo	Index 1971 - 100
	Kilos		1,000 M.T.		1,000 M.T.					
United States:										
1971	52	100	10,182	100	797	100	8	39	107.14	100
1972	54	104	10,377	102	905	114	9	35	116.62	109
1973	51	98	9,813	96	917	115	9	33	142.37	133
1974	54	104	10,716	105	747	94	7	37	144.14	135
1975 3/	56	108	11,275	111	803	101	7	35	149.36	139
1976 4/	57	110	11,770	116	845	106	7	30	155.00	145
EC-9:										
1971	25	100	6,058	100	560	100	9	28	143.03	100
1972	25	100	5,506	91	952	170	17	37	186.62	130
1973	25	100	5,575	92	985	176	18	35	237.94	166
1974	26	104	6,585	109	433	77	7	21	229.98	161
1975 3/	25	100	6,500	107	200	36	3	9	276.81	194
1976 4/	25	100	6,200	102	250	45	4	9	300.00	210
Japan:										
1971	3	100	275	100	63	100	23	3	238.89	100
1972	4	133	295	107	87	138	29	3	280.34	117
1973	4	133	227	83	194	308	85	7	478.31	200
1974	3	100	293	107	84	133	29	4	396.39	166
1975 3/	4	133	339	123	67	106	20	3	487.37	204
1976 4/	4	133	275	100	160	254	58	6	500.00	209

1/ Intra-trade excluded for EC-9 and world total. 2/ U.S., Dressed fresh beef, Good--600-700 pounds; Chicago, EC-9, Hamburg--wholesale price of bullock and heifers. Japan, fattened Wagyu cattle. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Estimate.

TABLE 4.--MEAT PRODUCTION IN MAJOR IMPORTING AREAS, 1972 TO DATE--CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT
(In thousands of metric tons)

Commodity and country	1972	1973	1974	Estimate 1975	Forecast 1976
Beef and veal:					
United States	10,377	9,813	10,716	11,275	11,770
Canada	898	897	942	1,050	1,080
EC-9	5,506	5,575	6,585	6,500	6,200
Japan	295	227	293	340	275
Total	17,076	16,512	18,536	19,165	19,325
Pork:					
United States	6,187	5,784	6,262	5,230	5,500
Canada	632	617	611	495	475
EC-9	7,638	7,641	7,898	7,545	7,600
Japan	769	842	958	910	930
Total	15,226	14,884	15,792	14,180	14,505
Mutton and lamb:					
United States	246	233	211	185	175
Canada	9	10	8	8	10
EC-9	476	483	508	522	500
Japan	1	1	1/	1/	1/
Total	732	727	727	715	685
Poultry: 2/					
United States	4,927	4,871	4,938	4,820	5,320
Canada	445	473	469	405	435
EC-9	3,013	3,188	3,126	3,105	3,270
Japan	635	698	740	750	775
Total	9,020	9,230	9,273	9,080	9,800
Total meat:					
United States	21,737	20,701	22,127	21,510	22,765
Canada	1,984	1,997	2,030	1,958	2,000
EC-9	16,633	16,887	18,117	17,672	17,570
Japan	1,700	1,768	1,991	2,000	1,980
Total	42,054	41,353	44,265	43,140	44,315

1/ Less than 500 metric tons. 2/ Product weight basis.

TABLE 5.--NET MEAT IMPORTS IN MAJOR IMPORTING AREAS, 1972 TO DATE--CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT
(In thousands of metric tons)

Commodity and country	1972	1973	1974	Estimate 1975	Forecast 1976
Beef and veal:					
United States	877	876	718	784	800
Canada	57	63	51	64	50
EC-9 1/	867	903	226	50	50
Japan	87	194	84	67	160
Total	1,888	2,036	1,079	965	1,060
Pork:					
United States	182	156	166	99	75
Canada	-31	-32	-5	4	20
EC-9 1/	-33	-61	-69	-50	-50
Japan	76	153	60	137	140
Total	194	216	152	190	185
Mutton and lamb:					
United States	66	23	10	10	15
Canada	48	35	22	20	20
EC-9 1/	373	310	235	200	200
Japan	212	187	126	180	165
Total	699	555	393	410	400
Poultry:					
United States	-67	-74	-80	-91	-150
Canada	5	6	1	9	10
EC-9 2/	-51	-74	-87	-66	-65
Japan	29	25	25	22	25
Total	-84	-117	-141	-126	-180
Total meat:					
United States	1,058	981	808	802	740
Canada	79	72	75	97	100
EC-9 1/	1,156	1,078	305	134	135
Japan	404	559	295	406	490
Total	2,697	2,690	1,483	1,439	1,465

1/ Excludes intra-trade. 2/ Includes intra-trade, product weight basis.

TABLE 6.--PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF BEEF AND VEAL BY MAJOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES, 1972 TO DATE--CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT

(In thousands of metric tons)

Country	1972	1973	1974	Estimate 1975	Forecast 1976
Production:					
P.L. 88-482 countries: 1/					
Australia	1,321	1,497	1,258	1,657	1,800
New Zealand 2/	411	449	405	507	530
Central America 3/	334	333	318	337	360
Mexico	593	745	844	889	955
Subtotal	2,659	3,024	2,825	3,390	3,645
Other:					
Argentina	2,191	2,152	2,145	2,424	2,800
Uruguay	290	256	330	350	390
Subtotal	2,481	2,408	2,475	2,774	3,190
Total	5,140	5,432	5,300	6,169	6,835
Exports:					
P.L. 88-482 countries: 1/					
Australia	746	920	505	746	855
New Zealand 2/	289	316	267	333	340
Central America 3/	139	132	115	123	140
Mexico	58	39	19	18	35
Subtotal	1,232	1,407	906	1,220	1,370
Other:					
Argentina	674	500	289	265	555
Uruguay	146	109	120	114	185
Subtotal	820	609	409	379	735
Total	2,052	2,016	1,315	1,599	2,105

1/ Excludes Canada and Ireland. 2/ Year ending September. 3/ Includes Haiti and Dominican Republic.

TABLE 7.--PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF MUTTON AND LAMB BY MAJOR EXPORTING COUNTRIES, 1972 TO DATE--CARCASS WEIGHT EQUIVALENT

(In thousands of metric tons)

Country	1972	1973	1974	Estimated 1975	Forecast 1976
Production:					
Australia	866	572	471	547	565
New Zealand 1/	569	554	498	490	515
Argentina	133	128	109	115	115
Total	1,568	1,254	1,078	1,152	1,195
Exports:					
Australia	373	230	140	242	270
New Zealand 1/	460	435	394	387	410
Argentina	17	28	20	22	20
Total	850	693	554	651	700

1/ Year ending September.

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